

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
CASA GENERALIZIA
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Dearest Sisters,

At 5:30 this afternoon, our good and merciful Father visited the James Alberione community of Albano, Italy to call to himself our sister:

GUGLIELMACI LUCIA – SR. PIERMARIA
born in Messina, Italy on 15 November 1934.

Sr. Piermaria entered the Congregation in Rome on 3 Sept. 1957 and was immediately immersed in the vocational and apostolic enthusiasm that charged the large Via Antonino Pio community. As a postulant, she carried out the diffusion apostolate in the Rovigo diocese. She returned to Rome to make her novitiate, concluding this stage of her formation journey with her first profession on 30 June 1961. With joy, she carried out the service of sacristan in the Queen of Apostles Sanctuary for several years, pouring all her energy and creativity into this ministry so as to contribute to praising “the Lord of all things beautiful” by keeping the Sanctuary and the liturgical vestments neat and clean. In a small room alongside the church, she would spend her free moments and sometimes her recreations embroidering with true artistry the stoles and chasubles used for the various liturgical services. Among the many important celebrations for which she prepared the Sanctuary, she always recalled with emotion the sorrowful and deeply-moving funeral liturgy celebrated for Prima Maestra Thecla.

Having carried out the duties of sacristan for more than 10 years consecutively, Sr. Piermaria had the joy of offering hospitality on numerous occasions to many of the bishops and cardinals who were participating in Vatican Council II and whom Prima Maestra invited to celebrate the Eucharist in the Sanctuary.

In 1971, a new stage of Sr. Piermaria’s life began. Asked to collaborate with the cinema apostolate, she worked in the St. Paul Film Agencies of Rome, Turin, Cosenza and Cagliari for the next 20 years. It was a new environment for her but she threw herself into this apostolate with great love and the determination to learn this service well. In just a short time she became an expert in the language of the cinema, in the films stocked by our Agencies, and in film projection rooms. She made an effort to keep updated in the field so as to make the most of the cinema as an important instrument of evangelization. After the St. Paul Film Agencies were closed, Sr. Piermaria continued to use her knowledge of the cinema for the benefit of the Pauline mission through her activities in the audiovisual departments in our Messina, Sassari and Palermo book centers. In the Palermo community, she also had the chance to form a group of Pauline Cooperators, transmitting to them a strong love for the apostolate and the desire to bring the Gospel to everyone through all the forms and languages of communication.

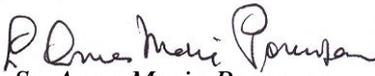
In 2009, Sr. Piermaria was transferred to the James Alberione community, Albano, due to serious bone problems that had significantly weakened her health. In this community, she was once more asked to carry out the duty of sacristan—a service she performed with competence, kindness and love. A sister known for her respect and friendliness toward everyone, she was only too willing to place her creativity and love for beautiful things at the disposition of others.

Last July, Sr. Piermaria suffered a fall that caused her to break several ribs and that significantly undermined her already frail health. While she was recuperating from this misadventure, it was discovered that she was also suffering from a severe form of brain atrophy—a health challenge she was not able to cope with, given her depleted physical resources. She spent some time as a patient in Queen of Apostles Hospital but the fact that she had great problems eating worsened her situation.

This morning Sr. Piermaria found the strength to thank, with a big smile, the FSP who, years ago in Naples, had invited her to attend Catholic Action meetings—a setting in which she had met an exceptional vocation councilor, Fr. Formicola. In the providential plan of God, this same FSP was at Sr. Piermaria’s deathbed, helping her to peacefully say *yes* to her definitive call to heaven.

Happy at the knowledge that she would soon be meeting God, her good Father, in heaven, Sr. Piermaria drew her last breath while the sisters of the community prayed the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 3 December 2015